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Speaker: The Honourable Peter Kilabuk, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Pangnirtung)

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(Nattilik)

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Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Nanulik)

Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Evyagotailak to lead us in prayer.

>> Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Mr. Premier.

Point of Order

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In accordance with Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I rise on a Point of Order. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Rule 23 (h) prohibits a member from making allegations against another member. Rule 23 (i) prohibits members from imputing false or hidden motives to another member.

Mr. Speaker, a review of the October 23, 2007 unedited Blues of Question Period will show that the Member for Rankin Inlet North made a false allegation, or imputed a hidden motive to me when, in a question regarding the former CEO of Nunavut Development Corporation, he stated, "Ignore the Premier's personality difference between him and that; I believe that plays into effect because I believe there's some disagreement on that."

Given that there's no truth or substance to this allegation, I am confident that you will agree that there is Point of Order and that the Rules of this House have been violated. I would request that you review this matter, and if you concur with my Point of Order, you direct the Member for Rankin Inlet North to withdraw his comments.

Thank you, for your consideration, and I look forward to your ruling. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. To the Point of Order. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With your permission, I need to review my comments in the Blues, and ask that I be allowed to do that and that I'll deal with it tomorrow morning. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I will give you the time to review the unedited *Hansard* and we will deal with it first thing tomorrow afternoon. Thank you.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 084 – 2(4): Community Skills Inventory System Wins National Award

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Members of the House about a prestigious honour recently awarded to the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, last month the Government of Nunavut received the 2007 Silver Award for Innovative Management by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. The theme of this year's award was New Service Breakthroughs with Technology.

Mr. Speaker, the award was given for Education's creation of the Nunavut's Community Skills Inventory System (NCSIS). The department's program was selected from 55 submissions from across Canada and has been recognized for innovations in the public service for 2007.

This system is an online employment and training system that uses essential skills to match employers and potential employees in Nunavut. It gathers detailed information about the skills needed for available jobs and compares that to the skills held by Nunavummiut. It is fully operational in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French, with a voice-over component for lower literacy clients.

NCSIS is a collaborative project with 30 community partners and has been piloted with great success in Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Arctic Bay, Iqaluit and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is committed to developing programs and services which meet the needs of Nunavummiut and reflect our expanding economic potential.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and supporters for helping to make this project such a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Netser.

Minister's Statement 085 – 2(4): Environmental Rules Relaxed for Arctic Operations

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am upset to hear that the Canadian Navy is considering relaxing its environmental regulations when it comes to its vessels operating in our arctic waters. The navy's proposed changes will allow them to dump garbage, oily waste, raw sewage and other effluents in waters next to the arctic shoreline.

It would be a terrible mistake for the Canadian Navy to adopt this policy. If the Canadian Government does not lead by example, other governments might consider it acceptable to relax their own pollutions prevention measures. How can the government expect to have any credibility when criticizing other nations for not doing more in protecting our arctic waters when their navy dumps waste into the same ocean?

Mr. Speaker, this decision is especially frustrating since we know some vessels, such as the new Victoria class submarines, are reportedly equipped to treat oily wastes before they are discharged. We know that the technology exists to manage waste on-board ships. Rather than taking the easy way out and relaxing the pollution control measures at sea, the Canadian Navy should concentrate on measures to treat wastes before they are discharged.

There are ballooning environmental issues and concerns over the movement of various pollutants into our arctic environment. These pollutants are adversely affecting our people from the North, and indeed, our wildlife. That makes it all the more disappointing that our own Canadian Government is considering revising its laws that will result in additional pollution to the arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I have written a formal letter of protest to the Honourable John Baird, Federal Minister of Environment, and cc'd it to the Honourable Peter Mackay, Minister of National Defence, conveying our deepest concerns about this proposed plan. I have asked him to consider tightening, rather than relaxing, our federal government's position on pollution prevention in Canadian Arctic Waters. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 187 – 2(4): Congratulations to Graduates from Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a number of students from Repulse Bay who recently graduated from high school.

As their Member of the Legislative Assembly, I was pleased to be able to attend their graduation ceremony a few weeks ago.

Education and life-long learning are the keys to success, and I know that the entire community is proud of their achievement.

Seven students graduated at the ceremony. This is the highest number of graduates we have ever had, and the entire community is proud.

As their MLA, I believe that support for education and life-long learning must be a key priority to our government.

We all want our young people to succeed in life and to take on the responsibilities of leadership.

In today's world, education and training are the keys to success, and I am committed to supporting efforts to strengthen our education system, and to help our youth achieve their full potential.

I encourage all of our graduates to continue their studies. Learning does not stop when you leave high school --- it has only just begun.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the commitment of our parents, teachers and principals.

Our hard-working educators truly make the difference in the success of our children.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating:

Maylain Bruce;
Jennifer Kadjuk;
Trevor Kringayark;
Denise Malliki;
Michael Putulik;
Rebecca Siusagnark; and
Jessica Siutinar;

We are all behind you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 188 – 2(4): World-Class Gold Producer

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell the House about an exciting event that occurred two weeks ago in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, it has long been known that the Kitikmeot is home to some of the world's largest deposits of base metals and precious minerals.

Indeed, since 1993, Kitikmeot leaders have been travelling around Canada and the world to tell investors and mining companies that "We're Open for Business."

Mr. Speaker, on October 9, Newmont Mining, a world-class gold producer with operations on five continents, entered into an agreement with Miramar Mining to acquire their company, which includes the Hope Bay Project and a greenstone belt that has the potential to host several tens of millions of ounces of gold.

Mr. Speaker, although the deal isn't concluded yet, the fact that a company of Newmont's global stature is prepared to invest \$1.5 billion in Nunavut is significant. Nunavut is attracting considerable interest from some of the world's largest mineral companies, including Agnico-Eagle and Zinifex. This bodes well for Nunavut's future.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet with a Newmont executive in Cambridge Bay for over an hour last week. I asked him about Newmont's commitment to respecting and protecting the environment; their commitment to training and hiring Inuit employees; and their commitment to being a good corporate citizen in my constituency and in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I was very encouraged by the answers that he gave to me.

Mr. Speaker, Miramar Mining has done a tremendous job in bringing the Hope Bay project to this stage and attracting the global interest of Newmont. I toured the project in August with the Miramar President and Vice-President to get a close-up view. I spoke with many of my constituents who are working down there and they told me that they were very happy with the company. In addition, I was pleased to notice several of our Inuit joint venture companies are working there.

Miramar has done things the right way to ensure that the Kitikmeot is involved.

Mr. Speaker, should this deal be successfully concluded I have no doubt that there will be decades of employment and business opportunities for Kitikmeot Inuit. It will be very important that the Government of Nunavut offer training for the careers that are available in the mining sector. There is no reason why we can't have geologists, metallurgists,

computer operators, mine engineers and mine managers from the Kitikmeot running the Hope Bay mine or other Kitikmeot based mines in a few years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in welcoming Newmont Mining to Nunavut and wish them and Miramar Mining success in concluding this important mining deal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 189 – 2(4): Courage of Constituent

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Darrel Goodyear. Darrel is a grade nine teacher in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, about two weeks ago, the Sanikiluaq grade nine students went on a boating trip. On this boating trip, an elder, Lucassie Inuktaluk, fell into the water while trying to get out through the front of the boat.

Teacher Darrel Goodyear immediately jumped out and was able to grab the elder's hand and pull him out to safety. Two students, Markoosie Eyaituk and Josie Novalinga, also followed to help Darrel. They were able to assist him in getting the elder to shore where they immediately removed his wet clothing in order to warm him up.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Lucassie's family and from me, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Darrel, Markoosie and Josie for their quick actions and getting Lucassie safely to shore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 190 – 2(4): Special Olympian Terry Kuliktana

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Terry Kuliktana who is originally from Kugluktuk. Terry used to live in Kugluktuk but he moved to Yellowknife in order to be able to receive support for his special needs.

Terry still visits Kugluktuk as often as he can. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Terry recently competed in the 2007 Special Olympics World Games held in Shanghai, China.

Terry is a blind swimmer, and he won a silver medal after qualifying for the games in 2006.

Terry worked very hard with the help of his trainer, Tracy Robertson. His training schedule consisted of swimming practice three times per week, and working in the gym twice a week.

Terry's family also helped in supporting him through daily walks. Mr. Speaker, his hard work paid off. I'm sure his family is as proud of his achievement as I am. In fact, the whole community of Kugluktuk is very proud of him. Everyone encouraged him to go for gold when they found out he qualified.

Mr. Speaker, Terry does not stop here. His dream is to be able to qualify to attend the 2011 Special Olympics in Athens, Greece. Mr. Speaker, please join in congratulating Terry for winning a silver medal, and showing us that disabled people succeed in all areas of life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. There are no more. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for High Arctic, Levi Barnabas.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some people. Behind me are Mr. Jaipeetee Akeagok and his son, Russell Akeagok. These two men are going down to Ottawa because Jaipeetee's father-in-law is going to be recognized in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Welcome, feel at home. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 236 – 2(4): Passage of Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

(interpretation ends) Earlier this year, the Minister of Finance introduced Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*. Can

the minister confirm for the public record that this bill was in fact passed by the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask Nunavummiut to pray for the two young people who got lost out on the land in Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) Yes, Mr. Speaker, the passage of this bill is already part of the public record. *Hansard* will show that Bill 11 received third reading and assent on June 6 during our last sitting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Bill 11 included additional funding for the Department of Health and Social Services. Can the minister confirm for the public record today that every penny of the government's request for additional funding for this department was in fact approved by the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the amount of the money requested at first reading was the same amount as approved by members at third reading. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last question. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm for the public record today that the amount the Assembly approved in additional funding for the Department of Health and Social Services was \$13,295,000? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the total amount that was approved in Bill 11 was \$45,382,000, and yes, \$13,295,000 of that was appropriated for the Department of Health and Social Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 237 – 2(4): Clarification of Minister’s Comments on Funding for Nunavut Nurses

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I tabled an article from the *Nunatsiaq News* edition of October 12 and the title of that was, ‘No Quick Fix for Agency Nurse Problems: Aglukkaq.’ In that article, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health and Social Services was quoted as saying that she had requested \$1.5 million as a supplementary appropriation at the Legislative Assembly sitting in June in order to develop a Nursing Recruitment Plan.

The article states and I will quote it, “Aglukkaq suggested the increasing unhappiness of GN nurses could have been avoided if the extra money had been approved in June.” This is totally inaccurate. The supplementary appropriation under consideration in June for the Department of Health and Social Services included \$1,542,000 for nursing. As the Minister of Finance just indicated, everything that they asked for was approved.

Can the minister explain to the Members of this House why she would blame the dissatisfaction of GN nurses on the outcome of a vote and by implication of the Members of this House for something that wasn’t even asked for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify. First of all, there is no quote from me in that paper. The articles are unquoted and are comments made by the reporter herself. So first of all I want to clarify that I didn’t say to Jane George that it suggested unhappiness within the staff. I made no reference during my interview to the amounts that were discussed in this House. In fact, those in the article are all unquoted statements made by the reporter herself.

I would refer the member to the *Hansard* of June 6, 2007, where we talked about the figure in question; the \$1.5 million. The amount was approved in the legislature, as indicated by the Finance Minister. What was changed during that debate, as you will recall in the *Hansard*, was the wording in terms of how that money would be spent and where it would be spent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have reviewed *Hansard* from that time and the reason that wording was changed was because the minister, herself, made it very clear that all of that funding was going towards casual agency nurses, and none of it was

directed to the strategy, which she had indicated at that time, hadn't even been approved; hadn't even gone before Cabinet yet.

So that's the reason why that was corrected because none of that money that was being requested at that time, as she had indicated, was going towards the strategy, and that's why that was changed.

My question, then, to the minister is; I know last week there was another article that was out and I received a letter from the minister this morning on that, correcting the comments made in that article by the media. If she was on top of that one so quickly, why did she not do anything in relation to what she is saying is inaccurate information that was put out in the article on October 12? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't make it a practice to respond to every article written that's inaccurate from *Nunatsiaq News*. In fact, the reporter herself is my own personal fashion critic. So I don't respond to her for that.

Very simply, I didn't respond to this because I think it's quite clear in the June 6 *Hansard* what the discussions were in this House. I think the matter here was resolved. We concluded based on how it would be spent based on discussions in this House and we changed the wording to how that money would be directed. The *Hansard* is public record.

Why did I respond very quickly to the situation that happened at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association conference? It was because that meeting is not public to Nunavut through this House. The discussions that took place in KIA are recorded through the KIA Executive Directors. In their proceedings they record their minutes and so on.

The headline was absolutely misleading; the comments in there were stating facts that were absolutely incorrect, and I thought that it was in the best interest of this government and Nunavummiut and Kitikmeot that I set the record straight that what was said during the KIA meetings was inaccurate.

Since then, I also received, from the CEO of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association who took the minutes, that some of the write ups in that article were never discussed or never brought up during the KIA meetings. Those discussions are not recorded in the House, which is why I responded very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made it clear that I'm not looking at critics and what they criticize on in the media. They can do what they want.

But when information like this comes out a number of months later, I think I can quote another quote from the minister, and I'm sure that she would agree with me, she said that "it is a disservice to all parties to misrepresent clearly presented factual information," and as she has stated, she believes very strongly in that and yet when it comes out October 12, the article is totally inaccurate and there is misinformation in there that implies that the Members of this Assembly didn't approve something, and that's why the nurses are unhappy. In fact, it was something that wasn't even asked for is there, that she would not take any measures to try and rectify that, given her latest letter that she sent out.

I would like to ask the minister if she would submit something to the newspaper with the correct information out there so that the public who, not everyone goes in and reads the *Hansard*, especially something from last spring, will have an accurate picture and restate the relevant facts in order that the public has a clear picture of the accurate information on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't take ownership to articles written about me that, 'Here's what I said, or that's what I said,' by the paper. I can't own those and I cannot defend those because I don't necessarily agree with a lot of the stuff that are written about health and positions.

It's important, and the members correct, to ensure that the correct information is out there. And it's also important, I think, for the members to share what they recommended in the House as well, in the re-wording and changes, and why they did that. I'm fine with that.

I tried to convey that at the time when I spoke to Jane George that we did try and put some money in there, but through debate that was changed, which is the facts of the *Hansard*.

So I think it's important to say and provide information correctly. The information is in the *Hansard*, the journalists have access to the *Hansard*, and it's also the responsibility, I think, of the journalist to report accurate and valid information.

With that, I will do my part to ensure the nurses and Nunavummiut have the correct information and I ask for the support of the members as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no problem putting factual, accurate information out there and restating why things were changed. That, as you'll recall, Mr. Speaker, that amendment was made to Bill 11 because the minister herself had indicated that absolutely zero dollars of that \$1.542 million was allocated for the strategy.

She had indicated that all of that money was going towards agency and casual nurses, and that's why that amendment was made at the time. I have no problem putting that out there when truthful and factual information is there. That's why I would support that, and I would encourage the minister...

Speaker: Sorry, Mr. Tootoo. A Point of Order has been raised. Minister Aglukkaq.

Point of Order

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Point of Order is I would refer the member to the June 6 *Hansard*, on page 56, where I clearly stated where that money was going to be used during the debate in this House.

Let me quote what I said there. I want that set for the record because the intent here. "In addition to that, as the member is in agreement with the way it was trying to be worded was any savings not used for casual and agency nurses would be used to implement the nursing strategy, I want that said for the record because the intent here was to continue using casual agencies in filling jobs while we implement the nursing strategy. Any savings would be put towards that."

But for the record, that was the intent of this line, that recruiting is multi-dimensional and that statement there was trying to capture that. The way it's worded is now is very clear it's going towards casual and agency nurses."

For the record, I wanted this explanation. Page 57, "...I want people to understand that the intent of this was to use any savings that we don't spend on casual hiring and agency nurses was going to be towards the recruitment strategy." That's what I said Mr. Speaker, and the member is incorrect for saying otherwise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members, I remind you that because this matter goes back to June of this year, I would like time to review the matter in question, and also I'll bring back my ruling to the House at the appropriate time. Thank you.

Do you wish to speak to this matter, Mr. Tootoo?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I have to disagree with the minister as I did in June that she had indicated that any savings from that money from casual agency nurses would go toward that. That means that none of that money was going; it was all geared towards that.

I don't believe that a supplementary appropriation bill that we're asked to approve is for something that might happen. We're asked to approve monies for a purpose; for something substantive. All that money she had indicated was going towards casual and agency nurses.

So in fact, none of that amount was allocated and that's why the amendment was made and changed by the minister to clearly identify what that money was being appropriated for.

So, again, hopefully, we can review the *Hansard*, and I look forward to your decision on that. But I just wanted to state clearly for the fact that the minister even agreed with it back then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Members. (interpretation) Just to remind the members again, this issue goes back to June and I will have to have time to review the *Hansard*, and I will make a ruling tomorrow.

Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 238 – 2(4): Air Quality Sanikiluaq School

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Education.

So far, for the month of October, students in my community have been in school for only four days, and today is October 24. As the minister knows, the problem is the air quality is bad in the school. I wanted to know what the minister has done as of today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The situation in Sanikiluaq and at the school has been ongoing, as the minister indicated, since October 2.

Since that time, I guess, basically, what is occurring here is this: we have a heat recovery system from the power plant, which is located adjacent to the school, and that provides the heat to the school in Sanikiluaq. One of the heating lines failed, and because the heating line failed, we weren't able to heat the school.

So we do have a backup set of boilers in the school itself and they had to be activated. Once that occurred, there were fumes or odors coming from the boilers, and again, from the line that is coming from the power plant, which necessitated the school to be closed because the noxious fumes were in the school and some students were getting sick, as well as the staff who were complaining about that.

Through Community and Government Services, we had people brought in to review the situation, get the lines fixed, and then try to reopen the school. And as of today, CGS is in the process of having air quality testers brought in from Ottawa hoping they will be on the ground tomorrow in the school to test the air quality.

The school has tried to open on two or three occasions since then, but there has been, again, strong evidence of fumes or odors in the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that there's going to be some people coming in from Ottawa. Are they going to be on their way to Sanikiluaq then? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, the staff at the school has tried to reopen the school, and when I say "have tried," they've actually opened the school for classes.

With their ongoing issue is with the fumes in the school, we felt that the best course of action now is to bring the air quality testers to ensure that the school is safe to be in and to ensure that all of the remedies that have been put in place are actually up and working.

The air testers that we're talking about, the specialists are based in Ottawa. We're trying to get them in there as soon as possible. My understanding, as of right now, is that, if need be, we will be chartering them into Sanikiluaq and we're hoping they will be on the ground in the next 48 hours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 239 – 2(4): Status of Dispute between Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation and Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Energy, concerning the ongoing dispute between the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer, I wrote to the minister to express my concern about this issue.

On October 9, Justice Earl Johnson ordered the Qulliq Energy Corporation to remove site access restrictions imposed on the Broadband Corporation and SSI Micro.

The minister has indicated that the Nunavut Government is attempting to mediate this dispute. I recognize that he will not comment on the matter before the court, but I would ask him to provide an update to the House on the government's mediation efforts. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Energy, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the member and members who have written me concerning the dispute that's underway. And again, I'm not at liberty to go into detail, as the member mentioned in his question, because it's before the courts.

What I can say on the mediation effort, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Minister Simailak. Because of the impasse that was occurring on the file, we approached the minister and his department to help us through mediation between the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Broadband Development Corporation, or Qiniq Network.

On an update on the resolution, a mediator has been appointed and both parties have agreed to the mediator. Mediation will actually occur on November 15 and 16 in Ottawa. So again, that's a good position to be in right now. I believe that, through the mediation efforts, we would be able to look at this in a more positive light. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister bringing the update, but I think the minister fully understands that is one of the most essential services that Nunavummiut need. We are lagging behind with technological changes that are happening so quickly. It's so sad that they have to go through this process at the moment.

Mr. Speaker, I have been disappointed that this situation had to go to court in the first place. Can the minister clearly explain to the House why no effort was made at an earlier time to bring the two parties together to work out their dispute? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to prejudice anything that we say in the House with an ongoing court case. So I don't want to get into any logistical, or financial, or indeed, the administrative issues that have occurred on the file.

What I can say is that both parties and I've had an opportunity to speak to the CEO of the Power Corporation and some of the senior people within the Qiniq Network and the Broadband Development Corporation. It is a dispute.

The Board of Directors of the Power Corporation felt that based on the discussions that had gone on and so on, based on their legal opinion, that the way to proceed was the legal way. And we had to let that process go forward. That process is continuing.

At the same time, as I said earlier, we are very pleased to be able to say that both parties have agreed to a mediator, and those meetings will occur in November, as I stated earlier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the last couple of years, formal “Letters of Expectation” from Nunavut’s Cabinet Ministers to the Crown corporations for which they are responsible have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Although the Boards of Crown corporations do have some independence, they cannot ignore these letters. Can the minister clarify whether or not he has been kept fully informed of this issue by the senior executives of the QEC, and if not, why not? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say, without fear of contradiction, that on a regular basis; that on a weekly basis, sometimes more often than I care to mention here in this House, I am in conversation with the CEO of the Power Corporation. This issue has indeed come up. Indeed, the letters of expectations are tabled in the House so that they become a public document.

So I can concur and answer the member’s question that indeed I have been briefed and been up to date on the issues, as provided by the CEO of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dispute, obviously, the conflict has created the progress to actually occur to improve our communications, and the only major choice that we have in Nunavut. That’s shameful for this government to go through this route.

If mediation between the GN and the NBDC is not successful, what options does the minister have to resolve this issue? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that I think we’re moving very close together now to meet the mediation effort.

I’m confident that we’ll have a positive outcome but I can’t foreshadow events to occur, so I can’t comment on the member’s question on what if something doesn’t occur or what if something else doesn’t occur. What I can say to him is that I am positive about the idea of having the mediator in place; they will be meeting in November. We are following it very closely and I would like to leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 240 – 2(4): Status of Devolution and Federal Investments in North

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs all know the Government of Nunavut has publicly committed itself to achieve an agreement in principle on devolution by December 31, 2007, and the devolution final agreement by December 31, 2008.

My question for the Premier, in light of the Mayer Report on Nunavut Devolution released in June this year, the recommendation to adopt a go-slow approach to devolution was made. Can the Premier give us a clear and candid assessment today if these dates and goals are realistic, and if not, what is the Government of Nunavut's new time table on devolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I continue to impress upon the federal government to get a mandate so that we can start negotiations.

As recently as a few weeks ago, I met with the new Minister of Indian Affairs and stressed our expectations of getting a mandate so that we can actually start negotiating. It is becoming quite frustrating to even start discussions at this point.

So I'll continue to impress upon the new minister and the Prime Minister because we've been waiting for quite some time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has had an entire division dedicated for devolution for at least a year and a half. I wonder if the Premier could give us an update on what that department is doing with respect to moving the devolution file forward in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The team has made the best of the time that they've been waiting; they've been doing research on various scenarios on what has taken place, like in the Yukon, on what type of transition took place.

So they haven't been sitting idle, and at the same time, they have been giving me updates on the progress, if any, that they have getting with their discussions with the federal government. So they haven't been sitting idle. They've been trying to make the best of it to utilize the time to prepare for negotiations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for the answer. I certainly hope that they've been gathering a lot of good information for future negotiations if they should occur.

Mr. Speaker, the Mayer Report on the recommendations stated that, "... if Nunavut's Human Resource capacity cannot be satisfactorily dealt with in the right conditions, it will not be in place to transfer to federal responsibilities." It's an interesting quote.

My question for the Premier: to deal with that recommendation, what is Canada doing to help Nunavut to develop programs and training for Inuit to prepare for the technical, scientific, and professional positions that would be devolved when devolution occurs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, nothing has been done by the federal government to prepare Inuit to assume those responsibilities.

I impressed upon the new Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to look where we have jurisdiction. We are training our own nurses and we are training our own teachers. That's what we're doing to assume more control and to allow for Inuit to benefit from the land claim agreement.

We're still for the federal government to do their part. So I've asked the Minister of Indian Affairs, "Let's work together. Let's get some Inuit working in these roles and responsibilities that our government will be assuming."

So, I'm still waiting, and I know that NTI has been a very active partner and I do hope that we'll make some progress on this file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer, and I certainly hope that the federal government is listening and paying attention. They came out with the report but they don't actually say how they're going to help us.

Mr. Speaker, in a recent CBC report, the Premier is quoted as saying, “Why are we not entitled to control our own resources like other Canadians?” My question for the Premier: what are the implications for Nunavut if we cannot negotiate a devolution agreement with Canada within a reasonable time frame? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think that is something that we will have to discuss as Nunavummiut: why we’re being treated in this way.

It’s the same treatment that was experienced by Alberta and Saskatchewan. When they first joined confederation, they weren’t given control of their resources for 30 years. I thought that the federal government had learned from that experience.

It’s a very bitter experience, and I do hope that we don’t go down that road for the benefit of our country. Look, let’s get done with the past, lets move on, and learn from our mistakes overall, and make real progress for all of Canada.

So I’m hopeful, with a Prime Minister from Alberta, that they want to avoid that mistake and move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member from Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 241 – 2(4): Photo Identification Problems

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Photography Making. I don’t know who that is, perhaps I’ll ask the House Leader.

Last year, or the year before, he made a statement with regards to taking photographs, and that they would be sending photography equipment to the communities to take pictures for drivers licenses, for passports, and for gun registry.

To date, the photography equipment has not arrived to communities. I think there was one that arrived in Pond Inlet. Can the minister update me if there is any photography equipment that was supposed to be allocated to communities to be used for identification cards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Government House Leader, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two processes that we put in place for the taking of pictures. A lot controversy arose, and I want to thank the Member for the High Arctic for raising this issue several times.

There was the inability of many Nunavummiut to get their passport pictures taken, so we arranged to have people brought in from every community when NAM was meeting here in Iqaluit to do the training and take the cameras back with them to their communities. That was a great success.

For the passport portion of the picture taking, that's in place. The second part of this is the question concerning the IDs and so on, and I believe that's done through the auspices of the government offices where available in given communities with drivers' licenses, but I really can't speak to that because that is a different department.

On the passport side of things, I can say, as the member has mentioned, that the approval was granted in the House and funding was provided, training was done and that has taken place in the community. I haven't received any acknowledgment or any type of query or question from any community with concerns regarding that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This information comes regularly from the Government Liaison Officer, GLO, in the community. It's not the individual passport, or driver's license, or gun license problem; it's a photo ID problem.

We have not yet received proper films after you have given them a course since they went back. Up to date, there have not been any proper films sent to them in order for them to process photo IDs.

My question to the minister, again, is, or let me clarify this first. In fact, today there are some people complaining that they have been hunting without firearms licenses because they have expired and there's no availability. We try to help them through Ottawa and they're saying, "We're not going to answer you for the next two months because other provinces like Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan are now trying to get their firearms licenses." So it's a big problem.

Can the minister tell me if that will be looked into immediately by whomever the Minister responsible for Photo IDs is? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. My apologies. The Minister of Economic Development and Transportation is responsible for this. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, at this time this is presently being checked into, and as soon as I get more information I will give my

colleague the information as to why the films are not in the communities. I will certainly check into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 242 – 2(4): Problems with Generators

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Energy.

I would like to ask the minister: in the communities when the power goes out, or if there is a problem with the generators, is the minister informed if there is an outage in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on the severity of the outage and what is occurring on the files when I'm informed. So as an example, if there was a serious situation that develops in a given community where the power may be off for more than four hours in a storm or something like that, then I'm informed on a regular basis and I get these types of messages when the power goes off.

If it's a temporary outage, every time the power goes off for an hour or two hours in a given community, then I'm not informed of that at the time. However, during that week, or later on that day, or something within the 48-hour time frame, I would be informed of the outage and then I request information on why there was an outage and so on.

Sometimes I'm unfortunate enough to be in a community meeting with people on how good the power is and the power goes off, just like what happened when I was in Kugluktuk a couple of weeks ago that the power went off when me and the Premier were holding our meeting.

So sometimes I find out directly because I'm there and sometimes we'll find out depending on the length of the outage that would occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the community of Repulse Bay is one of the communities who have the most frequent outages.

We have very capable workers. Maybe one of the reasons is that there was a generator that was brought in by sealift and it can't accommodate the whole community even with just one generator.

I've been told that we use two generators. If one goes down, they have frequent outages. I wonder why the ones that were brought into the community last summer were not looked into or fixed right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The majority of the time, when we have power outages in a given community, it's usually caused by what the Power Corporation calls line slap, and that's where you have a wind and the lines hit together, and then you have a power outage and so on.

The second type of power outage that you have, and what was experienced in Repulse Bay that the member is referring to, was an issue with the generator itself, and in this case, the generator had to be taken down to have work done on it. And because of that, then there was a situation of the other generator not being able to keep the capacity of the community up. That occurs on an infrequent basis.

In this case, at one point we thought we might need a new generator in the community, but that is not the case. And indeed, when we had our people go in there and review it, they were able to get the generator back up, and it's my understanding that as of right now, things are going very well in Repulse Bay.

When you look at having 25 plants in 25 communities, from time to time, you are going to have issues with outages and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear that there is a bigger generator and that it can accommodate the whole community. I'm wondering, once it arrived, why it wasn't worked on right away after the new generator came in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important to point out that the Power Corporation had, as of March of this year, almost 99 percent efficiency or reliability in our communities across Nunavut. And that's based on the number of hours running on each individual diesel generator.

In this case, in Repulse Bay, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, it's one of those situations that sometimes occur, and the problem with the generator was rectified. It was fixed, and at one point we thought that we would actually have to bring in a new generator and we'd have to Herc that in to the community. However, that wasn't the case and we were able to use what we had on the ground in the community.

Anytime you restart or start a new engine for example, as the member is referring to, you have to have a work-up period, it's called. When the generator starts up, you have a work-up period or a shake-down period for the generator.

Sometimes, during the shake-down or work-up period, you may have instances of outages and so on to get the generator synchronized properly. It's my understanding that that is what occurred in this case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister doesn't understand my question. There is already a generator that has never been used. It's not operating; it is not being used. I wonder why it wasn't worked on or put into use this past summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understood the question. I am trying to explain that there was no need to do that because we were able to get the generator that was on the ground in place.

In this case if the capacity of the generator that was not working had failed, the generator that was on the ground that was there would not have been able to handle the total load. We have more than one generator in any given community.

I believe, in the member's community, there are actually three generators on the ground there. That's the reason why we didn't get the other one going. It was my understanding that it wouldn't have been able to handle the capacity of the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 243 – 2(4): Photo ID Delay Problems

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation.

My question is very similar to what Mr. Arvaluk had asked, but in our community, they send maybe one or two rolls at a time and that is inadequate. My question is: even though they do take pictures for photo ID processes, especially in Clyde River, they wait over two months or more for their ID cards. I'm wondering why it takes so long to have them worked on here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working on this and we have to make improvements. Due to the fact that we are short staffed, that's one of the reasons why it takes so long, but we are currently looking for employees who will work there because of the fact that the ID, or licenses, take too long to go back to the communities.

As I stated earlier, I will look into this and get back to him also. I will check into this also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker Thank you, Minister. He stated that they will be working on this. When can we expect to get the photo IDs into the communities sooner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We put a rush on this. We are trying to remedy this problem as soon as we can, but I can't give you a definite time when it will come into effect. We are trying to make improvements to try and make the turnaround time a bit faster. So there have been some improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a question but at this time I'm getting good responses from the ministers.

A lot of times in the communities they take a long time, but if you are in Iqaluit, they can be done within five or ten minutes. For them to be processed and then to be sent back to the communities, it takes a long time because sometimes they need escorts. Can the department hire employees who will work on this for the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are talking two different things here. Yes, we make the drivers' licences, but with respect to the general identification pictures, they can take pictures in the communities, especially for travelling purposes and those are done in the communities.

As the member stated that sometimes they get one to two films at a time, I will certainly check into why that is the case. I will definitely inform my colleague to make the improvements on those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 244 – 2(4): Contract to Provide GN Informatics

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

Mr. Curley's questioning earlier reminded me of something I've been wondering about for while. I believe the network that the government uses for its internet stuff all over the territory, I believe was a contract that was inherited prior to division, and I would imagine it's probably about 10 to 12 years ago.

I'm just wondering if the minister can indicate if and who that contract is with to provide the network services for the GN at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Community and Government Services, Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [I haven't really done any work related to computer networks but I had to learn about it. I'm not sure what he is referring to, so I would like him to clarify that for me.

There's a network for Government of Nunavut and the other one is called the WWN Network... I would like to get some clarification as to what he is referring to so that I can try to see if I can provide him with an answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo, could you please clarify your question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering who and what type of contract is in place to operate the network that the GN uses for all informatics, internet, and all systems throughout the territory.

I know computers are something that if you turn it on and it works like it's supposed to, that's about the depth that I get into to it and I can appreciate the minister that computers are not the easiest things to work your way around.

If she's checking with her staff on that, Mr. Speaker, if I could also ask her if she would look into and ask them to provide her, or so if she can provide us with information on when that initial contract, if it was a contract that was carried over from division, and

what the terms and time frames were on that contract and provide that to this House.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Question Period is over. I will try and answer you. (interpretation ends) There is a contract for the provision of telecommunication connections across Nunavut which are billed on a monthly basis by the vendor Ardicom NorthwesTel.

The first Ardicom contract was established by the GNWT, and as is common for such contracts, they covered a period of five to seven years. And, the new technology is now being predictable, and the GN is planning a new round of RFPs during 2008-09.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that it was a pre-division contract, and I think if memory serves me correctly, the deal with Ardicom is probably about 12 to 14 years old when they first got started because I remember it involved Arctic Co-operatives at the time.

I'm just wondering; she indicated that it's usually a five- to seven-year contract, and assuming that it started close to 12 to 14 years ago, that contract has been expired for some time now.

I'm just wondering if she can give me an indication as to when that time frame of the initial five- to seven-year contract expired and what steps has the government taken to look at getting another contract in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. If you want to answer either question he raised, you may do so. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I guess a replacement was negotiated by GN at the time by Public Works and Services in 2002 for three years with the provision of a one-year extension.

In 2005, CGS extended it for another two years because of the uncertain state of telecommunications technology at the time and was expecting new technology to be placed within the next two years.

CGS did not want to go out when the technology was becoming obsolete infrastructure for an additional five to seven years with a new RFP at the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware if that contract with Ardicom NorthwesTel ever been included in the contracting reports that the GN tables on an annual basis here in the Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I am not aware but I certainly can find out for the member and get back to him when I do find out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, Question Period is over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 119 – 2(4): Letters to the Member for Uqqurmiut from Students of Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq re. Renovation to School and New Playground

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a series of letters that I have received from the students of the Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq about repairs that they feel are needed at their school and what they would like to see in Qikiqtarjuaq's new school.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the Minister of Education and his departmental officials will read through these letters at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Tabled Document 120 – 2(4): Arctic Bay Inuujaq School – Photographs of Deteriorating Condition

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we have the similar ideas. I'm not going to be tabling letters but I'm going to be tabling pictures.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I wish to table a collection of photographs that clearly reveal the poor condition of Arctic Bay's Inuujaq School and the urgent need for repairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please bring me the pictures to the front, to the Clerks.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions and First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole, Bills and Other Matters. Bill 16 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

We'll have a break for 20 minutes.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:57 and Committee resumed at 15:25*

Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 16. (interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 16 and the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Education. If time permits, we would then proceed to review the Capital Estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Does the committee agree to continue with the Capital Estimates for the Department of Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Education

Chairman: Thank you. Minister of Education, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Ed. Picco: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that he brings his witnesses to the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister. For the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, I am very pleased to be with you again today. With me, Mr. Chairman, on my immediate left is Ms. Kathy Okpik, who is the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education. On my immediate right is Mr. Murray Horn, who is the Director of Corporate Services for the Government of Nunavut's Department of Education.

I also want to mention, at this time, Mr. Chairman, in the Gallery we also have the new President of the Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Dan Vandermeulen. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Vandermeulen to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Welcome. (interpretation ends) Yesterday we were on page G-6 and G-7. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Are there any more questions from the committee? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick one, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Community Learning Centre Capital Plan, for example, in Pond Inlet, I've learned from visiting Nuluujaat, Baffinland, several times in several occasions that they actually have heavy equipment operator type of course by volunteers using simulators.

I think that virtual reality type simulators are now quite widely available to consumers. Considering that the Arctic College's main task in Pond Inlet will be to train the potential employees of Baffinland, will they be provided with those kind of simulators relevant to the mines, or would that not just be a part of the capital plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to get into a big discussion today on training because that, as the member has indicated, is under the O&M budget of the department. What I can say very quickly is that he is correct on the simulator. We have a simulator right now, purchased in cooperation with the KIA. For example, that's in place.

The plan is for the centre in Pond Inlet to be up and running, and to deal with a lot of the training issues outside of and not just a hands-on on-the-job training, for example, on heavy equipment operating, but to look at, for example, the academics that will be needed so that people can go into apprenticeship programs to look at some of the other training programs that may be required by the mine.

We know right now that mining is more than just a pick and shovel. Today there are all kinds of skilled trades that are associated with a mine, and that's the idea of the facilitation of the new learning centre in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the answer. I just assumed that the design of the community learning centre for that particular community would have, the design itself, consideration for the preparation for the type of course that will be required, by considering that it will be in close proximity to the mine itself. So that was my reasoning for that kind of question.

I guess the question would be: would the design of the CLC have that kind of consideration? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. From the discussions that we've had to date on some of the design plans that we are working on, we want to model the facility similar to the one we built in Baker Lake, which is being used right now, as part of the mine training process there. We all know about the exploration as well as the road that's being built there and so on.

So that new facility in Pond Inlet will lend itself very well to a multi-faceted approach for training, which would be inclusive of not only the academic but the vocational training that would be needed by that mine, in this case, we're talking about the Mary River Mine in the North Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You might have a business plan then on how you want to run this CLC.

Do you have a business plan to negotiate with Baffinland for funding purposes for some courses that will directly benefit the Baffinland Mining Company? In other words, do you think that you should be thinking, in your business plan, to have the Baffinland Mine pay for some of the courses that will be required? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This actually recently went to Cabinet with the opportunity to bring forward an MOU, or a Memorandum of Understanding, with the hamlet as well as the mining company and use this to look at training specifically, and take those into account with QIA and different partners that we have in place.

As the members know, any type of work or industrial development that will occur on Inuit owned lands there has to be an IIBA in place. So those are the types of things we're working on now.

We have the ability to enter into an MOU now, with the company, the hamlet, for training, and our Inuit organizational partners through QIA. So the member is correct. Those processes are in place within the business framework that we're looking at for the facility in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I would like to remind you that we're on page G-6. Department of Education. Capital. Details of Capital. G-6 and G-7. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome you, Mr. Minister, and your officials.

I think the minister agrees with me about having adequate space for the students and not to have them overcrowded. As the weather is cooling down, I don't see anything that's geared for Arctic Bay.

I had tabled some photographs earlier on, Mr. Chairman, and right here, as it's cooling down out there, this is a picture of plywood over the window. It's much deteriorated. I think it's up to the minister to make sure that there's a decision made as quickly as possible. It's going to freeze over in the winter. I would like to ask the minister if he has made any plans for the school in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I seldom agree with Mr. Barnabas on anything but I do agree with him on this point, and that is the situation of the school in Arctic Bay has undergone, in a lot of cases, of vandalism, where windows have been broken and so on.

Because of the proactive work done by the member, we have been able to work with our partners in Community and Government Services to go into Arctic Bay to do a site inspection of the school and to see what the cost values are to actually bring that school back up to where it should be, and identify and fix the deficiencies.

A work plan has been developed and I would hope to be in the position to have that finished in the next four to six weeks where all of the work could be done. Again, on the windows, as an example, we don't have the windows on site in the community and we have to bring them in. So that's part of the delay.

The member is correct. The pictures strongly illustrate some of the issues in the school and there are plumbing repairs also, for example, that need to be taken care of. There are O&M issues with the flooring and those issues are being addressed in an action plan that

has been developed through the Department of Education with CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's up to the Department of Education officials to go to the communities. For example, if you go to Kugluktuk, I have seen the pictures and the school is in extremely bad shape.

The materials and the windows should have arrived by ship this summer but because they haven't been ordered in advance, we're probably going to have to pay more because they're going to have to be airlifted to our communities.

I do know that CGS is responsible for those types of work, but my question is: why weren't those materials ordered and shipped up by ship this summer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member makes a good point. This work should've been carried out earlier other than later. So that's why I suggested that the member has done a good job in bringing this forward. We were not aware of the serious issues in the school until the new principal actually went in there on the ground in late August.

I believe just right now, at the last count, and I know, Mr. Chairman, that this number is a large number; there are something in excess of 65 windows alone that have to be replaced in the school. So that's not something that could happen over night. There are problems with the plumbing and so on.

We have a contract in place with our CGS partners to be able to go in there and do some work on the school and maintain regular maintenance and upkeep on the school, and that's what's being accomplished. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I think it's up to the minister to visit the communities more frequently. He went to Cambridge Bay two times already. I invited him to Arctic Bay and he has never made an appearance. As that's the case, I think I'll have to table a motion. Mr. Chairman, that's just a comment.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has a very short memory on my visits to Arctic Bay. The member knows I have been to Arctic Bay many times and I've

had the opportunity to have the hospitality of the community of Arctic Bay and the member in there. So I'm not going to get into that debate with him.

What I would suggest is that the member is correct. This should have been taken care of. As soon as we were made aware of it, we were following it up with the Department of CGS and we've ordered in the parts.

I want to make a very quick point to what he's saying and that is on the structural problems we see in the school. There are issues with the permafrost in the school in Arctic Bay where the building is actually moving on the site, and that's causing structural problems. That's not unique to Arctic Bay. We're seeing that in other places in Nunavut and it's costing us money. We see, for example, in the Simon Alaittuq Ford High School in Rankin Inlet, where the thermal syphon has failed and it's going to cost us several hundred thousand dollars to fix.

For example Mr. Chairman, here in Iqaluit, the Joamie School; in no school in Nunavut, in no building in Nunavut do we have storm or drain gutters on the building to take excess rain or water off the roof. It's never been a problem before. This year we're going to end up spending I think almost over half a million dollars right now to fix the foundation of the brand new Joamie School because there was so much water going off the school from the rain and it washed the foundation away.

We've got problems with other schools with foundations because of the permafrost and changing climate conditions. So those are issues that we need to address.

So I appreciate, again, the member's support and bringing the issue forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure, like the minister said earlier, and I know he's very happy to be back here with us again today.

One thing he just mentioned and I'm not sure if I heard it, but did he indicate that they were having some problems with the roof at Joamie School? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not the roof itself but it's the foundation of the school. I don't mean the structural foundation but when the school was completed, as I was just saying, we've had so much rain this year, the way the roof and everything that's designed in the school.

This has never been a problem in the past anywhere in Nunavut with rain, but now, with the changes that we're seeing in the climate and so on, for example, this year the foundation of the school on the sides and everything with sand and gravel foundations

built up to the new wall of the school. With the amount of water and rain we've had, it's actually washed away that area and that foundation and so on, and it caused us some issues with the roof of the school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. It's good to hear that they didn't have problems with the roof and it's still a brand new school, pretty much.

The next question I have for the minister deals... we touched on it a little bit yesterday, where it said for the Arctic College accommodations project here in Iqaluit, said that the CGS project staff were evaluating the concept of a design-build approach to the next tender call.

The minister indicated that that would mean almost three quarters of a million dollars that we spent in design and planning already would be gone. So we would have to pay someone else to come up with their own design.

If they're evaluating that concept, surely, it's not done yet. Does he have an idea of when that evaluation process, when the decision is going to be made, as to whether or not to throw away the designs that we have and go to a design-build approach for the next tender? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note that the member was, and I promised all the members, and I have a petition in front of me from some of the members asking to keep my answers short, so I will do that for the benefit of the House.

Just very quickly, the member was picking up my accent or my dialect, and my pronunciation of "roof." Well, I would like to say for the record, Mr. Chairman, I might've pronounced "roof" wrong. I might even say "mudder" but I don't spell it m-u-d-d-e-r.

Mr. Chairman, on this case, we would hope that the tender would be complete, as we said earlier, in November, and we would be in a position then, within three to four weeks of that, to be able to ascertain the direction that we would be moving in. So we will know within the next six weeks and that's the best guestimate that we have right now.

And, the money that has been spent on the design won't be wasted because that's the information that we'll be able to use when we look at any design packages that comes forward because we haven't said that we're not using it yet or not. It depends on the tender itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that and I'm sure his 'fodder' would be very proud of him pointing that out to us here today.

I guess he said the tender is coming out in November, so has the decision been made yet as to whether to go with the design-build approach or just go out to tender with the design that's been developed by the GN already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it hasn't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will that decision be made before the tender is actually put out, or how will they find out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it won't, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister inform at least the standing committee whether or not - when that decision is made even if it's like prior to the tender going out, which it should be, because you need to know what your going to put into the tender before you actually put it out to tender - when the decision is made whether to go with the design-build approach, or look at the design that they have already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that we're going for a record here. Mr. Chairman, one of the other projects that are on the books here, I asked the minister some questions about it yesterday, was the renovation at the high school. I know in the past the minister has said that when they're looking at building any new facilities or renovations and things like that that they'd be looking at daycare opportunities in those facilities.

I know that there is already a daycare facility in the high school and there is also one at the college but the minister is well aware that the demand for childcare spaces here in Iqaluit far exceeds the spaces that are there.

So I guess on either of those two projects, are they looking at doing anything to increase the child care facilities in either of those two facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are, Mr. Chairman, in the renovation as well as the new student accommodations that will be put in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister have an idea of how many more spaces they're looking at creating in these projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, Mr. Chairman, I don't have that number with me. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister commit to providing that information to the standing committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's response. It's very informative.

The other question I have kind of ties into the trades school, and I know that there were supposed to be components based in and it was announced in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit. I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an update of what they're looking at here around the Baffin region.

If he wants to elaborate into the other two regions, I'll leave that up to him, or he could wait until it gets to that section, but just on what progress is being made with those projects or with that project in those separate components particularly the one here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract for the design for the trades school in Rankin has been awarded and final documents for the construction tender will be released by December.

The financial and O&M forecasts to go along with it to fully implement the trades training strategy for Phase I have been submitted to the FMB, and we're also looking at some of the issues around forced growth also to be compatible with that.

We have a director now in place for trades, mining, and transportation programs within the college itself, which is doing the planning of the course programs, schedules, and outlines for the trades school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify to him, I wasn't asking about the actual trades school itself in Rankin Inlet, but it was announced that there was supposed to be components based in Cambridge Bay and here in Iqaluit.

I'm just wondering if he could give us an update of any progress that they've made on those two separate components particularly the one here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. We talked about how we would be able to phase the approach and have the school itself in Rankin Inlet, and we're doing that.

At the same time we've just completed the work on the shop in Cambridge Bay, and that will lend itself to running a millwright program in Cambridge Bay and we're gearing up toward that for the next year.

At the same time, money has been expended under the same envelope for re-tooling the shop here in Iqaluit, which is out at the federal building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for that response and I'm sure they're very happy to have the new tools at the shop here in Iqaluit.

Has there been any thought of looking at linking any of the, as he had indicated yesterday, the shop at the high school here and they're looking at wanting to utilize those spaces again, are they looking at tying in that facility in as well to the trades program that's going to be offered through the satellite component here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's part of the joint programming plan that we have in place between the high school and the college. As the design plan works itself out with the high school, then that would be a component part of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. On Qikiqtaaluk Region. Page G-6 and the top of G-7. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yesterday, before we adjourned, I had a question with respect to some of the project management issues.

The Department of Education, in my view, has always had good planners and have been able to get quite a lot of schools and everything built without any major difficulties, but during the last year or two, it seems to be cracking a bit.

I'm wondering if the minister can help us out and tell us exactly how many of the major projects have been re-tendered because of the costs being so far apart with the private sector contractors. Could you help us out a bit, in this committee at least, in explaining which processes have been delayed due to the very substantial cost differences? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information provided to me indicates that there are two projects that have caused some delay and concern with tendering price packages that we've discussed. One is the Gjoa Haven school that we talked about yesterday, as well as the NAC student residence that we talked about yesterday.

Those are the two projects that have shown some substantial delay and slippage because of price or costing issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's helpful to have some understanding. These were already probably designed and planned by the government. So it would mainly have been labour only tenders that were put out.

Yesterday, the minister had disagreed with me that someone obviously either was wrong; either the government in terms of establishing the costs for the total costs of building two of the projects, or the private sector was dead wrong in submitting tenders based on their costs. I would like to assure the minister that someone is obviously not correct in either of the two.

So how will the minister assure this committee that he is working hard to bring the true costs, the value of these projects, to fair and understandable estimates? Otherwise, the Assembly will continue to bankroll any costs over or whatnot. It's costly to re-tender projects. In the private sector world, someone would be fired for low balling costs and everything. They would immediately be replaced.

So I would like the minister to respond to that because I think it's important to understand that steps have been taken to bring the costs of these estimates closer to the reality of the private sector world. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a hard question to answer on how the minister will demonstrate.

I would suggest to you that I would carry on, I would cash and carry, I would carry grant, and I would hari-kari, to ensure that the budget is carried out on time, on place and on budget.

That due diligence is not just done from the minister's office but it's done through this Assembly, and through the auspices of the Cabinet and the Financial Management Board. I think that's how we provide that check and balance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister is either fooling us, but he won't fool me, because I think to account for the expenditures that are being presented has to be accurate and fair to the consumers and to the public. Taxpayers are much more serious about these escalating costs and figures that are being submitted to the Assembly that are not accurate. It's a really deadly serious issue to me.

The reason why I'm saying that is it's not that difficult to establish costs; not difficult. You need planners, you need engineers, you need cost estimators, and you need project managers. I'm amazed that you don't even have a project manager here when you're dealing with the capital projects. That's one sign of weakness here.

The other thing is that the minister tried to tell this committee earlier that the government is correctly submitting estimates. Yesterday I did not respond that establishing costs is simple to me because the cost of glass is something; the hard cost, you could figure that out. It's the other costs that the private sector proposes to offer to you is normally negotiable. The profit margins and all the other costs, like the cost of financing for construction and everything else, that normally go into all of this.

So exactly how is the minister... I don't think using one phase of the method for tendering is going to solve, whether it is just the design and construct phase, or designed by the government versus the private sector.

So will the minister seriously try to help us out that he is serious about putting in a more effective planning process and submitting estimates that are truly reflecting the natural world out in this part of the world? How will he do that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take the member's question seriously. The basic explanation; as the member uses the glass, as an example and as an illustrative purpose; for economies of scale, let's give an example.

The member goes out and wants to build a house, and he looks at the costs of the materials and the costs of labour to build that house as a turn key operation, meaning at the end of the day he could walk into the house and take it over. He estimates he needs \$400,000 to do that. So he puts a tender out and only one company bids on it and says, 'We're the only ones that picked up the tender documents. You want \$400,000 but we want to make 30 percent on that house. We're the only people bidding on it, so we'll charge you \$780,000.' So the member is going to say, 'Look, I know it's not going to cost that much, so I'm going to re-tender this because I don't like the offer that I've received.'

So the member re-tenders it again and then that price comes back in maybe a little bit better but still way over what the member has budgeted for. So the member then has to make a choice: does he continue to go with that design of the house? Is there a problem with the numbers? Has due diligence been done on the file? In all cases, that's what occurs on the tender. That's why we slipped so much money over the past two years on our capital budgets because we aren't getting the numbers that we think are fair value.

Part of that is the market place, as the member has indicated. We know there's an economic boom in Western Canada and we see the prices going up. We know other jurisdictions have cancelled their capital projects. For example, in Alberta, several billion dollars worth, because they're coming in way over budget because of the market place that we're operating in.

So I would suggest to the member that that type of due diligence is occurring. If it wasn't occurring, we would be out there taking the first bid offers that we're receiving on these tender packages. That's part of that check and balance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Thank you, Minister. I think the projects that are carried out annually are quite huge and quite large projects in many respects. This year may be a bit of an exception because the capital projects are not as huge compared to other years.

Based on the fact that we will continue to build huge facilities, huge educational facilities, I think it would be important to have a comparative study going back a number of years and table an assessment of that. The reason I'm suggesting that to the department is because I think the education capital planning group that you have really probably has a very strong relationship with the CGS people and so on. And yet, we have never seen a report that has construction projects tabled in the House.

When I was in the private sector, we had to do that for a financial institution in Southern Canada because they roll out huge amounts of construction financing as well as long-term financing when they convert to the finished product.

So would it be possible that you would discuss with the CGS and table at least the construction standards or whatnot and what the kind of challenges that we face. If I were to ask you, 'When was the last time you evaluated during the last five years the school projects and whatnot in Nunavut?' I think it would be a very valuable tool to have, as well as for the apprentices that we normally encourage to go into trades.

So I wonder if the minister shares my view that we're not doing very well with collecting information and putting them into research documents and so on, and more historic documents. Not only would it be a historic document but it would be useful information for the political leaders as well. Could he do that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member, I think, is raising an important point. The Department of Education is a client of the Department of CGS, as the member has pointed out, and that's something we have to do in cooperation with that department as the lead department on this type of capital project planning.

So that's something I would commit to bring up with the minister and the department responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So if the minister would commit to do that because I think there are people outside of Canada, even in other circumpolar countries, who are interested in understanding exactly how we do projects up here. I really believe that we can also learn from other countries that are doing projects in the permafrost and whatnot.

Right now, it would be a little embarrassing if I were to try and log onto the internet about permafrost, buildings, schools, and infrastructures. We won't get any and yet, this government could be providing that information to the world. So I believe that's a positive thing that the minister could do.

My final question to the minister: will he commit to at least discussing that with his colleagues and make some type of announcement in the House at an appropriate time when he's ready? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that Minister Brown is quite interested in making sure that we follow up with the concerns raised as the lead department. Again, Education is a client department of CGS.

So I would commit to the member to ensure that that is raised again with Minister Brown and discuss the process. I think the member has raised an important point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I failed to turn the second page on my list of questions. It's a good thing that I did not run out of time.

On your substantiation sheet for Pond Inlet Project 509055, it is stated on the bottom of the second page that the land status for the building site is clearly under negotiation with the Hamlet of Pond Inlet. I wonder when this substantiation sheet was written because I learned that the mutual agreement or at least a mutually agreed site has been done for the community of Pond Inlet for the CLC site.

If this substantiation sheet is old, then the Minister of Finance, in his opening address, stated that the CLC for Pond Inlet has been fast-tracked, I don't know the exact word that he used. But I noticed that for 2009-10 that there's only \$200,000 allotted for that year, when 2008 is \$2 million, and 2010-11 is \$3.5 million and so on. The amount for 2009-10 doesn't seem to be really a construction but rather something else because you cannot work a whole year with \$200,000. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly, there were negotiations between the hamlet and the college. Just recently, in the last 10 to 12 days, there has been a confirmation of the site location for the college and that's through the good work of the hamlet there. So that's been completed.

As the members know, when we're doing a main estimates book, it all has to go to the printers and be translated and so on. So because of the tight time frame, that's not in the books. So the member is correct; the site is already in place.

The issues with the costing on the capital project substantiation sheet, there was an issue with that line item where it was in the wrong line but that has been corrected on the sheets themselves.

So I think that's the point that the member is trying to make. That has been corrected. It was an error on the sheet similar to the spelling we saw earlier yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister will be providing this House with the corrected substantiation sheet. Will that also include putting forward the construction season from 2011-12 to 2010-11? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that the member should have those sheets. So if that's not the case on this project specifically, then maybe for the member's information, I'll just go through it.

For 2008-09, we've actually budgeted \$2,080,000 for that fiscal year, for 2009-10, \$3.7 million, and for 2010-11, \$4.5 million. So the total project cost is \$7.5 million. So it's cash flow to begin the construction, as we indicated earlier, we fast tracked it.

As the members know, this was not in the five-year capital plan' it was too far up on the five-year capital plan. We've actually advanced the project because of what we saw as a training need and what was occurring in Mary River. And, that was on the request of the member again. The member has been very active in ensuring that this facility moves forward.

So, hopefully, that clarifies for the member for the record the costing of the project and the cash flow requirement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's answer. I just want to have clarification now that 2011-12 is not \$1.5 million but rather \$50,000 for... I don't know if there's a fancy name for that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you. That is correct, Mr. Chairman. It's \$50,000 and that's for the warranty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, on the second page of your substantiation sheet, you stated the design will be exploring the utilization of a reduced size, repeat of the facility completed in Baker Lake and Cape Dorset.

This statement doesn't seem to reflect that there will be a very high demand for the Arctic College or the CLC facility in Pond Inlet. A lot of it's got to do with the mining that is being developed near by. So why is the requirement of that community less than Baker Lake and Cape Dorset? Can the minister give me the rationale behind the reduction in the size of the design? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we say 'reduced size,' we're not talking about any substantial decrease or depreciation of the size of the actual facility for usage, meaning the actual academic area, the training area, the actual classroom space and so on, would be comparable to what you see in the reduced Baker Lake and Cape Dorset CLCs.

As we talked about earlier, the Baker Lake facility is capable of handling a lot of the training issues that we're seeing in Baker Lake because of the mine development. We feel that that design will be able to accommodate and facilitate the training that would be occurring in Pond Inlet.

Again, part of this is to expedite the process. Part of expediting the process is to move the program up in the capital plan, which is what we've done, and to take a design that we've already had work, which was the Cape Dorset design, as well as the Baker Lake design, and be able to put that in Pond Inlet to take care of the training needs that the member has been raising.

So when we say 'reduced size,' that's what we're talking about given the sighting of the building, on the given lot size and so on. It doesn't take away from the academic or the other size of the school, for example, would you have a smaller bathroom space, it means it gives you a smaller common space and it gives you a smaller office space for the adult educator and so on. It's not necessarily the academic or training side, or the size that would be occupied by the students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope and pray that the facilities of similar design in Baker Lake and Cape Dorset have no default on them because we received a health centre in Pond Inlet that was the same design as Igloodik and both are having extremely difficult problems with the design and construction of those buildings. They have been worked on every day this year in both places.

Can the minister tell me that the facilities in Baker Lake and Cape Dorset have been proven as good buildings before the similar design is going to be constructed in Pond Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've been in both buildings; in Baker Lake several times and I was at the opening of the new centre in Cape Dorset just recently, last spring actually, and those are very nice buildings. If I was still in adult education, I would love to be able to work in those facilities.

I think just the verbiage being used to describe the facilities is probably a bad choice of words when we say 'reduced size.' Again, it will not impact on the actual academics or the training area needs, which is what the member is articulating.

The second point is that the life expectancy on this new facility is 20 years. So we're looking 20 years out on the training facility itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I have no more names on my list. We're on page G-6. Education. Detail of Capital. Corporate Services. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Page G-7. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$16,200,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Kivalliq Region. Total Kivalliq Region. \$7,200,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials back today. In my opening comments yesterday I promised the minister I'd ask for an update from him on what the planning is for a new Arctic College campus in the Kitikmeot region, specifically in Cambridge Bay. I have raised this numerous times over years in meetings and in the House.

I was hoping to see some mention of it in the capital estimates this year, but again, it's missing. So I wonder if the minister could give me an update of where the planning is and if it's a priority for his department and for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his good question. I agree with him that we need a new campus in Cambridge Bay. Right now, we're using a multitude of buildings to be able to provide a campus site in the community itself, and that's something that we need to be able to ascertain at the department.

The issue is actually, right now, I don't have the money within the capital budget to be able to plan that. For example, we moved the learning centres, as we know, which is over

a \$6 million project, in the capital plan out because of the mining development issues in the Pond Inlet area and because of some of the other projects that have dropped further down in the five-year capital plan.

What we're trying to do this year, Mr. Chairman, in conjunction with the new President of Nunavut Arctic College, is to look at the campus program in Cambridge Bay, and to see where we can bring it back into the five-year capital plan with some design and develop money because I think everyone in the House agrees that with the development that's going on in Cambridge Bay and in the Kitikmeot, we need that campus.

So that's where we are with it right now. I would hope to be in the position in the New Year when we're reviewing the capital plan to be able to see if we can get some money within that capital plan and start looking at some designs and some planning work around having a single building as a campus in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister tell me if he is making a commitment to ensure that that occurs? I understand the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Directors may have passed a resolution also calling on the Department of Education to provide a new campus in the Kitikmeot.

So if the minister could confirm if he is making a commitment that this project is a priority and he will find funding to begin the planning and that, hopefully, next year we'll see it on the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I make that commitment to the member. Right now, we don't have any monies in the capital budget or the five-year capital forecast for Cambridge Bay and the new campus.

As I said earlier, over the coming weeks, once we get this budget rolled out and passed through the House, if it goes through in the House here in the New Year, in January, I'll have an opportunity, as minister, to sit down with our college people and review the motion passed by the board of governors of the college, and to see where we can find some money and so on in the capital plan because I believe there a need for a standalone, single building campus in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that commitment. I look forward to meeting with the minister and talk about this. Again, in the coming months, I said it's very important for our region with all of the training that's required not only for the Government of Nunavut but also for the private sector in the mining industry.

There are a lot of kids and young adults, even some older adults, that they would be encouraged to go to school or go back to school if we had a proper facility, that it's not conducive to learning, although the instructors and the staff want to do the best they can with that facility.

Another issue I've brought up a few times, I think this is the third time that I've brought it up, and that's the issue of the gym at the Kiilnik High School in Cambridge Bay. I don't know what happened years ago when they built that facility. It was a \$17 million facility, it was quite expensive at the time, but it's starting to look like a bargain now when we see \$33 million and \$35 million price tags for the high schools and elementary schools.

Somebody made a decision at the time, we'll probably never know who, but when they were constructing the gym, they decided to put in the cheap flooring. It looks like they didn't put the underlay under the floor, so it's made the floors feel like you're running on concrete.

The minister was with me in Cambridge Bay last month. The concern over the years in my riding from the educators, the kids, and the parents of the kids at the high school is that running around on that gym floor with no underlay has been quite hard. It's dangerous, in terms of falling down on the floors. It's like falling on cement, if anyone has ever tried to do that, and it could cause damage to the children's limbs and joints as well.

So I've asked the minister to look into this, as I said, on two previous occasions. I'm wondering if the minister could give me an update on where his department is with respect to looking into that issue there and providing a mechanism to upgrade the gym flooring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the member is correct. We've been working with our partners at the Department of CGS to look at what the costing of a floor would be, as well as the basketball backboards.

So we don't have that costing information yet, but for the member's information and for his constituents, we have heard what he's been saying and we're acting on it, and I would be hope to be in the position in the coming weeks to be able to look at a cost factor to be able to change the flooring in that school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I certainly hope that this time around that it is a priority, as I've asked him on that on two previous occasions.

One of the ironies of this situation, Mr. Chairman, is that when the school was being constructed, we wanted to have a larger facility. The Government of Nunavut told us that if we wanted a large gym that we had to fundraise and contribute some equity to the gym. The folks in Cambridge Bay and many of our friends from across the North, the corporations actually fundraised and contributed \$80,000 towards the gym. We thought that money would go into things like the underlay and backboards for the gym.

It's not like we were asking for something for nothing. We actually worked very hard to fundraise so we have a gym that was second to none to Nunavut, where we could host territorial events and other important events like conferences in that gym.

So it is very important that we do have proper flooring and backboards for the basketball tournaments. Everybody in Nunavut knows we have our junior boys' and girls' teams that are quite often the top teams in Nunavut, and they have to run around on hard floors. You can imagine how much better they would be if they had a proper underlay.

Another issue came to my attention recently as well, and it also concerns the gym and I was surprised that it hasn't come up before, it concerns the stage lighting. We have stage lighting in the cages and we have stage lights, but apparently, there's no wiring to the lights and there's no on/off switch. The electricians that were in the high school working on the upgrade to the trades shop were looking for the wiring for the stage lights.

So we have this beautiful top-of-the-line facility, \$17 million, it's probably worth \$40 million now, with inflation and other skyrocketing costs, hopefully, we can stage all kinds of fantastic events but we don't have an on/off switch and wiring to turn the lights on.

>> *Laughter*

That's true energy savings. Maybe we have to use candles.

I wonder if the minister, when he's talking to CGS, if they can also consider looking at the problems with the stage lighting and the wiring, and the control panels for the lighting in the gymnasium. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will follow that up. I'm sure that a lot of members would like to have an on or off switch sometimes.

>> *Laughter*

So we've made note of it and we will follow that up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page G-7. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$1,500,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$25,585,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page G-4. Education. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$25,585,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Education is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, Members. Thank you, Minister. If you have any closing remarks, you may do so, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. I would like to thank the committee for their due diligence on the Capital Estimates of the Department of Education and I look forward to discussing some of the other issues that have been raised and follow up with the members on questions and comments, and concerns noted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The next department will be Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Before we go to that department, we'll take a 10-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 16:33 and resumed at 16:50

Chairman: Welcome back, Committee. I would now like to ask Minister Tapardjuk for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to make his opening remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly. I thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 2008-09 Capital Estimates.

There are significant changes to the department's capital estimates this year. These capital estimates are in line with suggestions made by the Department of Finance during the preparation of the 2008-09 capital estimates.

It was suggested that the grants and contribution process would be more efficient if capital contributions were re-profiled under CLEY's existing operations, grants and

contributions in Vote 1 rather than remaining in Vote 2. To this end, the Financial Management Board has approved the re-profiling of \$1,688,000 in the department's main target (Vote 1) in 2008-09, to address future contributions funding for Recreation Facilities Projects, \$681,000, and Community Heritage, Elders and Youth Centres, \$1,007,000.

Mr. Chairman and honourable members, this re-profiling of capital funds reflects my department's ongoing commitment to community capacity building.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 2008-09 Capital Budget of \$910,000 is allocated to two Capital Projects: *Piqqusilirivvik*, Cultural School, in the amount of \$850,000 for the project design; office renovations and equipment in the amount of \$60,000 for minor office renovations and the purchase of office furniture and equipment.

Mr. Chairman and honourable members, you are aware that on October 23, 2007, the Honourable David Simailak, Minister of Finance, stated that "to maintain previous time frames and incremental infrastructure commitments made to Nunavummiut with respect to major capital projects, \$9 million has been reallocated from the Heritage Centre Project. This is to provide the cash flow we need to maintain existing schedules. We are committed to returning the \$9 million to the Heritage Centre Project budget in future years. The heritage centre is still a priority under *Pinasuaqtavut*, but at this time we must realize that the balance of the funding required to complete the project is not currently available."

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth remains committed to the establishment of a heritage centre to preserve Nunavut's cultural legacy. Although there are no immediate funds that have been committed in 2008-09, you have my assurance that planning is ongoing for the construction of a Nunavut Heritage Centre that I anticipate will take place within the next two years. The department is continuing its efforts to secure the funding required for the construction of the Nunavut Heritage Centre. A contract will soon be awarded for the Public Capital Fundraising Campaign for the Nunavut Heritage Centre. Construction will commence once additional funding is secured from other partners other than the Nunavut Government.

The *Piqqusilirivvik* remains a major priority and I am pleased to report that the department has obtained another coordinator position from the Department of Education. This means that the department now has two dedicated positions to work with the steering committee and working groups in moving forward this initiative. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is also working closely with capital planners at the Department of Community and Government Services in the development of this learning facility.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table, minister?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Does the committee agree that the minister can go up to the witness table with his officials?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, please introduce your officials, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Phoebe Hainnu, who my deputy minister, and on my right is David Kolot, Director of Corporate Services.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please feel welcome. Does the Chair of the *Ajauqtiit* Standing Committee have any opening comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed the proposed Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for the 2008-09 fiscal year, and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The committee notes that the department's proposed 2008-09 capital budget of \$910,000 is approximately 89 percent lower than its 2007-08 budget, primarily as a result of the re-profiling of the department's grants and contributions program to its operations and maintenance budget.

The committee also notes that \$850,000 of the capital budget is going towards the proposed new *Piqqusilirivik* Cultural School in Clyde River. Mr. Chairman, the cost of this project is budgeted at \$11.5 million.

Mr. Chairman, members were informed that a study defining the programs, administration, operating costs and location for *Piqqusilirivik* has now been completed. The committee appreciated the minister's commitment to table this study during this session.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee also noted that Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget for staff housing for this project is slightly different than the amount stated in CLEY's substantiation sheet. The committee would appreciate a clarification as to whether student accommodation will be included in this budget or if this will be a

separate budget. The standing committee will also monitor the progress of the satellite campuses in Igloolik and Baker Lake.

Mr. Chairman, in 2007-08, \$1.5 million was budgeted for the Nunavut Heritage Centre. In May of 2007, the department carried over \$1.5 million for the Nunavut Heritage Centre project and it is not clear what this funding was used for. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that most of the budget is expected to be provided through third party funding.

Mr. Chairman, during the Finance Minister's recent appearance before the Regular Members' Caucus, he informed members that \$9 million from the heritage centre project would be reallocated to ensure that other major capital projects will proceed on schedule. The Minister of Finance did commit to returning the \$9 million to the Heritage Centre project budget in future years. He also indicated that the heritage centre is still one of the GN's priorities.

Members of the committee urge the minister to continue to seek third party funding for this important initiative. The committee expects the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly and the public on its progress.

Mr. Chairman, the committee noted that the department has made changes to its capital grants and contributions program, as per recommendations made by the Department of Finance. The capital grants and contributions for this department have now been re-profiled under its operations and maintenance budget. These were capital contributions for Community, Heritage, Elders and Youth Centres and capital contributions for Recreation Facilities. As a result, they no longer show in this year's capital budget. The committee encourages the minister to continue to table his department's annual report on its grants and contributions expenditures in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, the committee noted that the department has budgeted \$60,000 in each fiscal year until 2012-13 for office renovations and minor equipment. However, there are no substantiation sheets for each project. The committee would like to see a breakdown of how these funds will be used in order to clearly identify what projects will be receiving how much funding.

That concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. I suggest to members that wherever possible make your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Briefly just to make a general comment. Last week, we dealt with Language Bills and we did a hearing from the public on how it would be best to protect the Inuit language. What I am trying to say is that was moved, they moved this \$9 million and they don't know when they would be reallocating it back. Looking at the capital estimates, it's set for five-year capital plans for schools and others.

It's impossible to know how this \$9 million will be reallocated back. Probably it will have to be re-profiled and it seems that we have to deal with this urgently because we don't want to lose the Inuit culture.

I will be asking questions later on: who are you working with to find funds and how urgent is Inuit language and culture training to protect the language and culture. The heritage centre will be built in Iqaluit but the residents of Clyde River have been requesting for the *Piqqusilirivvik* School for many years. So I want to know how diligent you are in working with your partners to find funds.

So I will be asking questions along that line in regard to Clyde River and *Piqqusilirivvik* when we get on to that topic. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I don't have any more names on my list for general comments.

We will start off with F-6 under Capital Estimates. (interpretation ends) F-6. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. My colleague will be asking in regard to the cultural school, so I have a question in regard to the heritage centre. I am in support of the minister's opening comments that that needs to become a reality but it's going to be a challenge to come up with those funds and that you will be contracting out of an individual to work on that.

Perhaps, first of all, I'll ask a question. Are you going to be contracting a company, an individual or a firm? If you can elaborate further on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): To date, we have not signed the contract that I had mentioned earlier, but we had made a request to the *Nunatsiaq News* and other forms of media. There have been three applications and we've reviewed them. They are all companies and they are not owned by individuals.

We have not signed a contract as yet but the documents are being prepared now for signatures. I can tell you that we will be contracting out a company to identify the cost for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

If it's a company that will be awarded the contract, then will the company be raising funds on its own, or will that company be responsible for looking for funds from elsewhere? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they will be dealing with everything to do with fundraising and look for funds elsewhere for us. We have considered that the federal government would have to provide some funds and some could possibly come from the private sector. The contractor would be responsible to raise these funds.

Although the funds will go to Cultural, Language, Elders and Youth, NTI, Inuit Heritage Trust and Cultural, Language, Elders and Youth have a working group that represents those entities and they will be working closely with them, although the Department of Cultural, Language, Elders and Youth will be responsible for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question: do you have an idea of whether they will be contracting out a company that will be looking for funds? Can the minister table the terms of reference to the House so that we'll be fully informed as to how it is? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can agree to that to table the policy and the terms of reference for that contract in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Not yet. Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister another question. Because the company that will be contracted to look for funds can't go beyond the budget, do you have an idea on the total amount of financing? Have you identified the range although it may not be a final number? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The design and revision during the time when they did a feasibility study, they thought that it would cost about \$55 million. After reviewing and evaluating the cost for the design and operations for 2007, we estimated that it would cost approximately \$61 million to \$62 million.

We'll have to identify funds to pay for the construction of *Piqqusilirivvik*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question to the minister, since you're now on the planning stage for this, the funds will be provided in part by NTI. Will those entities that provide support financially own the building, or will they just have an advisory role, or will the Government of Nunavut own *Piqqusilirivvik*? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We have not come to a decision on how the *Piqqusilirivvik* governance would be, for example, if it's going to be owned by the GN, or are we going to go with partnership to own the building with NTI, or is it going to be a Crown corporation with its own board of governors? The working group is still working on the details as to how it would operate.

The governance is within the responsibility of the working group - how this will be operated and how the governance will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. Can the minister reconsider to get more than one recommendation on how this building will be owned?

If the entities agree to share it or not, it's going to be difficult to get some funds that large. Have you done away with the idea of a company owning that building? We're leasing this house for 20 years. Have you considered a long-term lease in regard to that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): To this effect, we'll also have to look into that and consider it. It is our priority since we're using Yellowknife Museum archives because we provide funds to the GNWT to house our artefacts and archives since we don't have space in Nunavut to do that. That's one of our priorities.

The company that we'll be contracting out will be looking for funds. We would like to see them deal with that. I have not heard when the working group will be meeting. Their next meeting will be in November. At that time we'll have a better idea on what the situation is with the heritage centre. I will continue to work on the heritage centre even though there are no funds set aside. We will work on the planning stage, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. At this time I don't have anybody on my list. (interpretation ends) Page F-6. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a question that I wanted to raise in regard to the *Piqqusilirivvik* School. I believe it's trying to say "Inuit culture." I wanted to ask about the funding of \$9 million that has been postponed, I think it's \$9 million, my apologies. It might be postponed or delayed, and I don't know where it would come.

I would like to find out who your partners will be because Inuit are concerned that we are losing our culture, and in some cases, our language, especially for students, whether they're in university or college. There should be a school where they can go to.

The partners have not come up with the funding yet. How closely are you working with them, or is it doubtful that they'll come up with money, or is it at a preparatory stage? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Before I respond to his question, exactly which one are you referring to; are you talking about the heritage centre or the cultural school?

We have put aside \$10 million for the heritage centre and the \$9 million is going to be used for something else for now. The cultural school was also provided with \$10 million by the Nunavut Government.

At this time we are preparing how it will be operated, when the construction will begin, what courses will be available and how many students would be able to attend. We have a working group that is looking at all of those things.

So I would like to ask him if he is referring to the heritage centre or the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am referring to the *Piqqusilirivvik* School with regards to the construction. I believe the construction is to start in 2009-10.

I'm looking at the substantiation sheet because he seems to have stated that he wasn't sure as to exactly how it will be and I don't think the design is ready. I believe it's set for 2008-09 for the design and the construction to start in 2009-10 and beyond. The funding is already identified there. How can you know the cost to construct it when you don't even have the design?

When we were dealing with Education, we heard that it costs a lot now to construct buildings. So can you tell us that you believe it will not go over the limit of \$4.1 million in 2010, and just in case it goes over that amount, where will the extra funding come from? Will it come from the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Piqqusilirivvik* will be funded by the Government of Nunavut. After the election, we met in Arviat, and we are just going ahead with what was discussed. So the money set aside for 2008-09 will be used for the planning and design, and we will start the construction in 2009-10, and will be completed in 2010-11.

At this time we are not too certain on how big it will be, if it will be just in Clyde River, or if we're to consider Igloolik or Baker Lake, if there will be satellite campuses where will we have to come up with actual building, or even without putting up a building, can we still go ahead with the training? So we are going to do those depending on the availability of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, in his opening comment on the funding for *Piqqusilirivvik*, may be the leftovers from the GN. I don't know why the CLEY Department is not funded sufficiently and yet they say it's a very valuable department. That's what we've heard when it was formed.

So now, we know \$6.1 million and \$4,133,000 are just estimates. It might pretty well be way over that amount because as you said, you didn't know how big it will be. Does the minister expect that after they utilize the \$850,000, they will be able to identify and give the exact amount of money that they will need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, the member is right. We will have to come up with that and we are working with CGS for the planning. Even though it's stated there, we will have to know if it will be run by a Crown corporation or if we're going into partnership with NTI. These are being looked at by the working groups.

So I expect that in the future there will be some developments but at this time I can't say, Mr. Chairman, that it will be like this. I can't give you definite specifics on those and who will maintain it or who will own it. Those are the questions that we'll have to answer. After they've been worked on by the working group, then we can have a clearer picture in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is... I don't know if the minister will be able to respond about the delay but in regard to the Nunavut Heritage Centre, there was \$9 million that was allocated there to be used. It states here now that they had to take \$9 million to use for something else because some capital items had to be completed and I don't know which ones.

We don't see any money up to 2013. So the \$9 million that was going to be used originally, where did you put it? Are we going to see it again? We know it's from the Nunavut Government. Is that right? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): At this time, I can say that they're dealt with by the Finance Division of CLEY. So I can say that I don't know where the \$9 million is but it's within the Nunavut Government.

To clarify, it was obvious in 2008-09 that we couldn't complete the *Piqqusilirivvik*, especially when the territorial government was the only government to identify funding. The federal government will have to provide some funding, and as I stated earlier, we are just about to sign a contract for the heritage centre to pay for it.

After we complete that and if we're going to see some money, and we, as a government, we'll be able to put more money in. This will be ongoing for the heritage centre because we know that it has to be dealt with quite soon. Maybe we are too slow. It was clear that in 2008-09, we couldn't utilize the funding even though it was identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You stated that it was clear that it wasn't going to be constructed by 2008-09. Was that \$9 million identified even though it wasn't going to be a reality? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We are currently working with NTI and the Heritage Trust, and we also need their help. That is why we go a little bit slower. If it was just us, maybe we could have gone a bit faster, but we have to work together.

We are aware that it's impeding the progress but we've encountered some problems because the federal government has to identify some money. Yes, we have encountered some problems but we have dealt with them. We are hopeful that we will be able to sign a contract and it should go ahead pretty soon, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) We're on page F-6. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Capital. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to add a bit more to Mr. Mapsalak's question because it's not written here anywhere as to how much money you are paying rent for the Yellowknife Heritage Centre for our artefacts that are being looked after there.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We had made an agreement with the NWT Government in 2006-07. It would be about \$164,000; 2007-08, \$169,000; and this year, \$173,000. Every year we pay them to keep our artefacts in their heritage centre and the federal government, the NWT Government, and the Nunavut Government were beginning to negotiate the amount.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I know it's going to increase each year since it's that amount now.

If I ask you in this way, have you asked the federal government concerning section 35 in our Constitution, we have recognized our language and culture; have you asked the federal government if they could assist you in the finances towards that?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I think it was a year before, after the Conservatives were elected and formed the government, we met with the federal Minister responsible for Heritage.

At that time the federal government was thinking they would pay for one third, the Government of Nunavut would pay for one third, and the private sector would be for one third also. We thought that half of it would be paid by the federal government and we would look for the rest.

I don't think, however, that we have gone over budget. We have received \$10 million through the Northern Strategy, and I believe those funds will continue to be available for at least another year. The funds are there for improvements in the North.

So we are going to be contracting consultants to look at what sources of funds we can access from the federal government, who we should see, who we should meet with. The contractor will be responsible for doing all that, and it makes sense to us for one person to carry out those activities. We will pursue this approach as far as we can, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Page F-6. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$910,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$910,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page F-4. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$910,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you agreed that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) If you have any closing remarks, you may do so, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I just want to thank everybody and I know that we are going to be better prepared for the future. The capital funding that are requested from different organizations are going to be better planned and in place for the communities.

I would like to thank my colleagues for approving our capital estimates on this bill. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Kolot. Thank you, Ms. Hainnu. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation end) We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable; you cannot debate the motion.

All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the Capital Estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability in the Tuktu Boardroom tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

Orders of the Day for October 25:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 16
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:45*

